

THE TROY HERALD.

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GENERAL PARAGRAPHS.

Incidents and Accidents.

A child with a frog's head is the latest reported Darwinian phenomenon. It was born in Washington Co., Vt.

Three boys and a girl were contributed to the Milwaukee census by an enterprising German matron last week.

A hardened and undutiful reprobate, aged nine years, is under arrest in Peoria, Ill., for robbing his father of a paper of tobacco.

A Missouri girl washed all day, made a supper of twelve boiled eggs, and then danced all night. The funeral procession was nearly a mile long.

The recent fall of the Coe block in Woonsocket, R. I., killed Xavier Paul, a boy. Search was made for John Sheffield, supposed to be buried in the ruins.

A New Orleans girl ate a box of castle soap to get rid of freckles. The mourners remarked a very peaceful expression about the mouth, at the funeral, but the freckles were as numerous as ever.

A country maiden lately drove an ox-team into Indianapolis, hauling a load of wood. She said she cut the wood, and with the wood she bought a highly ribbed hat, and with the hat she'll cut a country swell.

The skeleton of Chas. Baswildebald, who mysteriously disappeared from Macon, Ga., two months ago, has been found hanging in the top of a tall tree near the city. He hung himself with his suspenders, during a fit of mental aberration.

Charles Bangert, aged eleven, and his mother were arrested lately at New York, and the boy testified that he had repeatedly attempted to poison his father at the instigation of his mother; father and mother belong in Brooklyn, but have not lived together for some time.

Joseph Townsend, aged thirteen, living at Princeton, Minn., tossed his invalid sister Mabel, aged sixteen, by throwing grains of corn at her. She flung a large pair of shears at her brother, which struck him in the left breast, penetrating his heart, causing instant death. The girl is almost deranged with grief.

A drunkard in Rochester, N. Y., was picked out of the gutter by the police, locked up, tried and fined next morning, and, though several policemen pawed him over, they failed to find \$800 concealed on his person. When they learned what a prize had slipped through their hands, they tore their hair and wept.

There are souls too base and sordid to appreciate any joke, no matter how delicate and good-natured. Such is the husband of an elderly lady in Louisville, who got outrageously angry and caned the butcher who pinned a calf's tail on his wife's dress, and then followed her with a mocking crowd. A man who will get mad at such a bit of pleasantry as that is a grouchy and ill-natured villain.

A young druggist's apprentice in Savannah, Ga., had a pistol, and one day thought he would amuse himself by firing it into a barrel of non-explosive kerosene oil. The pistol went off, so did the barrel, and the young druggist—well, Savannah people are reconciled, for a young man who has no more sense than to fire a pistol into a barrel of oil—particularly of the non-explosive kind—is not a proper person to put up poisons for the general public.

George W. Morgan, the celebrated organist, has met with a severe misfortune. His left arm was wrenched from the elbow socket by a railway accident. It is thought that he will never again have the use of his arm. He can neither lift nor move it, yet he continues his concerts as of old. His superb pedal playing comes in to aid him in his present discomfiture. He has still the use of his fingers, and he gets some one to help him put his arm upon the key-board, and notwithstanding the pain the operation gives, he uses his fingers with the skill of earlier days.

We have a Spartan mother among us. Charles Mortimer, it will be remembered, was recently hanged at Sacramento, and when his mother learned that one son was about to be hanged, and that a second one had been killed while attempting to rescue the first, she uttered not a word of complaint. She sent a third son with friendly greetings to the criminal and a message to the deputy sheriff who had killed her offspring, saying: "I have no cause of anger. You did your duty bravely and deserve thanks."

There is a smile or two in this from the New Albany, Ind., Ledger: "A party residing at Elizabeth, bearing resemblance to a man, sold his wife to a man living in that village for the sum of \$250 the other day. The woman is now engaged in getting a divorce at this time of the court. After this business is disposed of the happy couple will be united in the bonds of matrimony. The bereft husband is stone blind and is possessed of some means. The ex-husband jogs along on a lumber wagon, the proud possessor of \$250 cash and feeling much relieved at being well rid of a worthless woman."

A short time since a lady in Casco, Michigan, went out to the river's bank to see her husband and some other men roll some logs down a logway into the river. True to woman's instinct to "help," she took a lever and pried one end of the log, which, in starting, caught by a knot in her wrapper, and took her with it down the steep embankment, a distance of nearly seventy feet. The log passed over her twice, she each time falling between the other logs in such a way as to avoid being crushed. As she was going over the third time her skirt caught in a root, loosening her from the knot, and saving her from going into the river. Her dress, which was a new one at the outset, was torn in shreds, and this, with a few black and blue spots, was the extent of the damage from her perilous ride.

Scientific and Industrial.

In Russia the sunflower is cultivated for the oil which it yields. This oil is used in cooking as well as for lamps, for soap-making, and for making paints. Fifty bushels of seed may easily be grown on an acre of land.

According to the French chemist Dumas, the newly-discovered art of decorating walls with tin-foil, bearing designs in oil-colors, has, in a somewhat modified form been successfully practiced by the Chinese for a long time.

The ancient Egyptians possessed the art of so tempering bronze that it would take and keep a sharp edge. Sir Gardner Wilkinson found in tombs bronze daggers which were almost as elastic as steel, after having been buried 3,000 years.

Nickel ore has been found cropping out in the counties of Madison, Iron and Wayne, Missouri; and at Sand Prairie in the same State, a new lead mine has been discovered. The prospectors, says the Iron Age, took 4,000 pounds of the mineral three hours after the lead was struck.

On the American Continent, the Sequoia, or Big Tree of California, can find a congenial home only in a very few localities. In England, however, it appears to thrive admirably, and various "improved" varieties have already made their appearance there. The Weeping Sequoia is the latest novelty.

Found post mortem in a lunatic's stomach: Forty-four pieces of shirt, forty-one do. pocket-handkerchief, ten do. cups, eight do. brooms, seven do. crockery handle, six do. stick, five do. leather, four do. coal, three do. stocking, two do. rag, one do. tobacco-pipe, one do. iron, four pebbles, one knitted cuff, one acorn. Total weight, over eight pounds.

A vein of plumbago, eight feet thick, has been discovered in Missouri. This is the first deposit of this useful mineral found in the West. The vein at Sturbridge, Mass., varies in thickness from one inch to two feet. There are also plumbago mines at Brandon, Vt., Fishkill, N. Y., Wake, N. C., and St. John's, N. B.

One of the chief potato-growing provinces of Holland, Groningen, has thirteen mills devoted to the conversion of potatoes into flour. Nearly the whole crop of the province is thus disposed of, the daily yield of the mills being some 246 tons of potato flour. A large part of this, according to the Glasgow Weekly Herald, is consumed in the adulteration of wheat flour in England.

A correspondent of the Lancet tells of a hen laying a pair of eggs of good average size in the space of ten minutes. The same writer found in his poultry yard a double egg, or two eggs combined. This is not a case of mere double yolk within one shell, which is common enough, but of two complete eggs, with separate shells entire, except at the points of contact.

A French horticulturist has perceived that, wherever a fruit—a pear, for instance—rested upon some branch or other support beneath it, that fruit always grew to a large size. The support given to the fruit permits the sap-vessels of the stem to remain open, and the fruit can receive abundant nourishment. Mr. Thomas Meahan made substantially the same observation some years ago.

Mr. William Yates has made the following important modifications in the Davy lamp: He dispenses with wire gauze immediately around the flame, replacing it in front with a strong lens, and behind with a silver reflector. The miner cannot raise the flame so high as to heat the gauze, and, if he would open the lamp, to light his pipe, he is foiled, for that cannot be done, without extinguishing the flame.

Eighteen men and 63 women died during the past year in England at the age of 100 years or over. There were still living, when the census was taken, 6 men and 22 women, 100 years old; 1 man and 14 women, 101 years; 3 men and 11 women, 102 years; 2 men and 6 women, 103 years; 6 men and 7 women, 104 years; 2 women, 105 years. A woman died in Huddersfield at the age of 107, and a man in Staffordshire was 108 years old when he died.

It has been shown by M. Berard that, when fruits are set in the open air or in oxygen gas, a certain volume of oxygen disappears, and at the same time a nearly equal volume of carbonic acid gas appears in its place. If, however, the fruits are placed in carbonic acid or any other inert gas, there is still produced a notable quantity of carbonic acid, as though by a kind of fermentation; and since, under these conditions, the oxygen necessary to the change is not furnished by the surrounding medium, it must be supplied by the saccharine matter of the fruits themselves, a considerable part of which is thus transformed into alcohol.

At the recent meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, at Cambridge, Mass., Professor L. Agassiz took occasion to oppose the doctrines of evolution, which are now becoming so popular among the younger scientists. Men who will change cherished views in old age are very scarce; hence, we cannot expect this eminent savant to give up his lifelong theory of special creations. When he says, however, that no new facts have been discovered which requires us to change our earliest views of the origin of animals, he overlooks the fact that there is no special proof in Nature of intermittent creations. The evolution and creation theories are both philosophical deductions from the facts of science, and neither can be proven true by the light of Nature alone.

Personal and Literary.

The King of Vandalia—Oscar II.

The Khedive has eighty children.

Gail Hamilton has gone to California.

Grace Greenwood has returned to Washington.

A man of Straw—The Governor of New Hampshire.

London University has a chair of Chinese Language and Literature.

Concord once more reigns in Concord—Emerson has got back.

Potter Palmer, Chicago's millionaire, has rented a Long Branch cottage.

The Marquis of Bute threatens to visit America this summer. Et tu Bute!

The widow of the late Capt. Thomas, killed by the Modocs, has applied for a pension.

Father Ryan, the rhyming Catholic clergyman of Mobile, has returned from Rome.

The report that Mme. Loysen, wife of Father Hyacinthe, has a son and heir is contradicted.

Commodore William Smith, who commanded the Congress when she sunk the Merrimac, is dead.

Several of Albert Durer's choicest

pictures were destroyed by fire recently in the town of Joazeffthal, Bohemia.

Hammond, the revivalist, claims that he has converted over three thousand people in a late Western tour.

The "Life" of Dean Alvord has been written by his widow, but is considerably inferior to the life he lived.

Thad. Stevens' heirs couldn't give up the spirit, so the executors decline to give them a ghost of a show in his will.

The resignation of Mr. William Boche as General Agent of the American Press Association has been accepted.

Rev. Father Guettry, Superior of the Sisters of Charity in the United States, leaves shortly for Rome.

The papers are discussing whether General McMahon is a French Irishman or an Irish Frenchman.

A. M. Thomson, the editor of the Milwaukee, (Wis.) Sentinel, is credited with an intention to publish a volume of poems.

General John P. Hawkins, brother-in-law of General Canby, is collecting material for a biography of that officer.

Minister Schenck's daughters are to reside at stalls at a forthcoming "grand charity fair" to be held in London.

Prof. John Hart, of Staunton, is to fill the chair of Moral Philosophy in the University of Virginia.

Chicago has an ear doctor named Tongue. How much scandal might arise from having a Tongue busy at the ear.

Lucy Quin, of Philadelphia, sold her new bonnet so that her lover might purchase a ball ticket. That's true love.

George William Curtis will take a vacation of several months from all literary labor, for the recovery of his health.

We read of a man who made from 300 to 300 puns every day for fifty years, and died peacefully at last. He probably died like Lamb.

A Kentucky paper claims Captain Jack as a Kentuckian by birth. He was probably born on the "Dark and Bloody Ground."

Laura Fair has been compelled to pay her counsel \$3,000 more for his services. His favorite song is, "If she be not fair to me, what care I how fair she be!"

Robert Sawyer, by writing 18,000 words in ten hours, has become the champion reporter of Wisconsin. Now we shall look for a report of "Bob Sawyer's Party."

Robert Bonner has ordered an expensive monument for Fanny Fern. The pedestal will be surmounted by a Roman cross beautifully enriched with fern leaves.

An intelligent lad in Connecticut, 12 years old, has been hard at work on the alphabet for eight years and has not learned his letters yet. His parents intend him for the profession of letters.

Jean Ingelow, it is stated rises with the lark, and does most of her writing before breakfast. She has a theory that all poems composed at night are apt to be morbid, if not gloomy, and to such cause ascribes much of Byron's misanthropy and misery on paper.

An almost incredible paragraph is circulating to the effect that Sergeant Bates is actually—after all the flag carrying that he has done for his ungrateful country—reduced to the humiliating necessity of working for a living just like any ordinary citizen.

Sir Samuel Baker means business. He evidently believes that obstacles were made to be overcome. At any rate he has no idea of being overcome by obstacles, and he is not a Baker that lives his work half done. Do—not doubt—his word.

Authorship would seem to be prosperous sometimes. Mark Twain is now having built a \$40,000 house, in Hartford, Conn., and expects it to be finished by his return from Europe. But then, Mrs. Twain was worth \$250,000 before Mark ever saw her. Is it literature or wedlock that succeeds?

We are to have, it seems, during the coming autumn, a novel by Major-General Lew Wallace, upon the conquest of Mexico, by Cortez. J. R. Osgood & Co. are to publish it, and it is said to be very fresh and fascinating, and "unlike ordinary novels."

Mr. Hinton Rowan Helper, author of the "Impending Crisis," who is now in South America, is expected to return some time this fall, when, it is rumored, he will publish a work calculated to make quite a sensation in the political world.

School and Church.

The Reformed Church in America has more ministers than churches.

The Southern Presbyterians have more churches than ministers.

Eighty-eight ministers of the Presbyterian Church died in this country last year.

Bishop Ames, who has been sick recently, is now convalescent and about his Episcopal work as usual.

Berea, Ohio, the seat of Baldwin University and German Wallace College, has enjoyed a gracious revival this season.

Neither Universalism nor Unitarianism, as an organization, has succeeded south of New York.

Mr. W. O. Goodloe was recently ordained and installed pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Mount Sterling, Ky.

The Universalists propose to build a national church at Washington, and have appointed Rev. C. H. Fay as minister in charge.

Rev. F. C. Montfort has left the pulpit of the Orchard Street Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, for the editorial tripod of the Herald and Presbyter.

The United Presbyterian Church of Scotland has expended in its foreign mission work last year nearly twenty thousand dollars more than its receipts.

The General Assembly has appointed a committee to correspond and arrange for an ecumenical convention of Presbyterians, to be held, probably, next year.

A suggestion that the Presbyterian ministers be moved from congregation to congregation at stated times, like their Methodist brethren, was received with laughter by the late General Assembly.

The Rev. Newman Hall, of London, expects to visit America again, next August, and go upon a lecturing tour, in case he can get a release from his present ministerial duties.

Mr. Joseph W. Sanderson, a recent

graduate of Lane Seminary, is temporarily supplying the Presbyterian church at Jansenville, Wis., with a view to the pastorate of the same.

Rev. A. P. Forman, D. D., of St. Louis, has begun his pastorate with the Presbyterian Church at Canton, Miss. The state of his health demanded a more Southern climate than St. Louis.

Thomas C. Easton, A. M., has received a call to the First Presbyterian Church in Belvidere, Boone County, Ill.; salary \$3,000, with vacation of two months.

The Bohemian Episcopacy has protested to Count d'Andrassy against the suppression of the religious orders in Rome as a blank set of sacrilege "and an offense to international rights."

There are 3,000 auxiliaries to the Bible Society in the United States, through whose agencies more than thirty million have been distributed. The society prints and distributes 3,000 Bibles every day.

A regular Presbyterian service will be maintained in Vienna during the Exposition. Clergymen of the Church of Scotland will conduct the afternoon services. Rev. Dr. Moore, a minister of the Irish Church, will officiate in the morning.

A very large number of Presbyterian ministers throughout the country receive less than five hundred dollars a year salary. The sustentation fund of the denomination is designed to increase this pittance to a uniform amount of \$1,000.

The Catholic Bishops of England will assemble in council in the month of July. One of the principal subjects for deliberation will be the inspection of primary schools and the adoption of a uniformity of methods for religious instruction in all the dioceses.

Rev. M. F. Parkhurst, pastor of Grace Methodist Episcopal church, Chicago, is recovering from illness, and to recruit his health intends shortly to make a trip partly, if not entirely around the world. He will visit China and Japan and other Asiatic countries before he returns home.

Rev. S. W. Crittenden has resigned the Secretaryship of the American and Foreign Christian Union, which he has held for two years. He has been succeeded by Rev. Henry M. Baird, Ph. D., Professor of Greek in the New York University.

An Evangelical Union church has been established at Constantinople, the object of which is to supply some of the religious wants of the large number of British and American residents at Constantinople, many of them engineers in the service of the Turkish government.

Not satisfied with the National Series of Sunday school instruction—a series from which everything denominational is left out—the Presbyterian General Assembly, in session in Baltimore, took steps to have the doctrines of the Church distinctly taught in the Sunday schools.

Mr. D. L. Moody, of Chicago, is going to England to labor in the lay field so abundantly cultivated by English Christians. Mr. Bewley, one of the largest Christian givers of the Old Country, has sent over \$200 to pay the expenses of Mr. Moody and his wife to their new field of operations.

The treasury of the Baptist Missionary Union has been overdrawn to the extent of \$42,000. Special collections have been ordered in all the churches on the fourth Sunday in June, both to replenish the treasury and to provide for the sending forth of eight new missionaries who await transportation.

The annual procession of the relics of St. Gennaro or Januarius took place in Naples on May 3. The liquefaction of the blood occurred as usual at eight o'clock in the morning, after forty minutes' prayer. The civil and military authorities attended, and although the weather was raining the streets were crowded by thousands of persons who witnessed the miracle with evident fervor and devotion.

The Presbyterian Mission Boards closed their ecclesiastical year with a debt of \$128,000, and when they went to the General Assembly at Baltimore a motion was made to curtail expenditures, which so aroused the enthusiasm and zeal of the delegates present that they started subscriptions in the Assembly, after the Methodist fashion, and in a few minutes \$75,000 of the entire indebtedness was pledged.

The Free Church of Scotland is getting a little trouble on its hands in this: Rev. Mr. Saunders, a minister at Gargunnoch, near Sterling, bought a railroad excursion ticket which required him to return on the 13th of a month. He stayed away until the 18th, and then, as charged, altered the 3 to an 8, and traveled on the ticket. He was condemned in a civil court, having let the case go by default. His presbytery then took the matter in hand and also convicted him, but he has appealed to the General Assembly and threatens, in case that body gives a verdict against him, to appeal to the civil courts. It is said that he has plenty of money left by a recently deceased relative, and that he takes great pleasure in litigations.

Foreign Items.

Senor Figueroa figures as the first Federal President of Spain.

The conundrum of the day—Who is the coming man in France?

The volatile French Republic is in danger of being dissipated.

Professor Owen has been created by Queen Victoria a Knight of the Bath.

The ex-King of Hanover left Vienna to avoid meeting the Crown Prince of Germany.

The Garter vacant by the death of Lord Zetland has been conferred on the Earl of Leicester.

John Stuart Mill left a full autobiography with instructions for its immediate publication.

The Marquis of Westminster has given a site for a lecture hall to a working-men's club in London.

Montreal is organizing a Flower Mission, to supply flowers to the sick in hospitals, jails, and almshouses.

Dr. David Skae, one of the most distinguished authorities on the subject of mental disease, died recently in Scotland.

Russia is about to institute civil marriage; but that won't prevent the parties from being uncivil afterwards.

McMahon's address to the army

smacks not unlike Napoleon's tactics previous to the coup d'etat.

Sir John A. Macdonald, of Canada, is to be made a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, with a salary of \$30,000.

Lord Elcho proposes to try the monster British turret ship, Devastation, in a storm at sea, by first taking out her crew.

Henry Perkins, of the famous British brewing firm of Barclay & Perkins, left a \$400,000 library, which is soon to be sold.

The Prince of Wales recently had a Sunday evening party in Vienna, and orthodox England is deeply scandalized thereat.

The Carlists in Spain begin to show nerve. They have just attacked Irun; which may mean that they have stormed a battery or made a bayonet charge—in irony, perhaps.

Darwin is going to spend the summer in the south of France, whence we shall have gaudy reports concerning our simian origin that will be suggestive of many a tale.

The Sultan of Turkey's ill health, the St. Petersburg papers represent, must soon necessitate a regency, and then troubles must be expected that will compel Russia to vindicate her own interests.

The power of love is once more illustrated in the case of a girl in London, who, in order to save her lover, the real culprit, went into court and swore that she stole a diamond pin.

Queen Victoria lately discharged a number of laborers on her estate at Osborne for asking sixpence a day additional pay and an hour less of work. That is economy militant.

Nathan Lees, a Manchester (England) cotton manufacturer, lately died and left \$3,500,000 for his relatives to squabble over. He had never been married, and was seventy-five years old.

The Germans have an "Early German Text Society," which is located at Stuttgart, and will print this year Hans Sachs, Logan, and "Die Ersten Deutschen Zeitungen."

Queen Victoria, according to a London paper, will be very glad to receive and entertain the Shah. But what on earth will she do with his three wives? A harem is rather an inconvenient thing to travel with.

Mr. William Darcey Dowling, a Dublin barrister, thought he wanted to marry Miss Frances McMullan; but, after having gained her consent, he changed his mind and wedded another lady. For his fickleness Mr. Dowling has been compelled by a jury to pay Miss McMullan \$800.

Stunning Sensation.—All the fifty-two Bombay newspapers are in the Vienna Exhibition! Twenty-one purely Gujarati, fifteen purely Marathi, thirteen Anglo-Marathi, two Anglo-Gujarati, and one Hindoostani. Here is an embarrassment for literary men!

Polish noblemen in St. Petersburg now revenge the wrongs of their country by marrying Russian women, and making them wretched. They think the Slavic ladies ought to be their wives; since the Russians and Poles, being hereditary foes, are eminently fitted for marriage.

Frederica Gremiriz, an eccentric maiden lady of Brussels, who died a few weeks ago, is reputed to have left 40,000 francs in her will to the famous Mannikin statue. She has followed the example of another woman of Brussels who died nearly one hundred years ago.

The office of President of the Bavarian Academy of Science and Conservator-General of Scientific Museums in Bavaria having become vacant by the death of Baron Liebig, the post has been conferred upon Dr. Von Dollinger. King Louis advised the Doctor of his appointment by an autograph letter.

The droll announcement is made in the Bristol papers that the Committee of the Bristol Athenaeum, a few days ago, resolved to pay posthumous honors to the late Mr. Macread, and re-elected him as one of their Vice Presidents several days after the announcement of his death.

A tea dealer was tried not long ago, at Birkenhead, for adulterating his tea, and acquitted, because he could not be directly proved to have been a particeps criminis. The judge remarked, in an exoneratory way, when the defendant was discharged, that there were few grocers who did not "face" their teas.

Lord Chief Justice Cockburn has just made a joke. A Mrs. Jury being examined as a witness in the Tichenborne case, stated that she had had eleven children, whereupon His Honor observed he had always understood it took twelve to make a jury. England is still echoing the laugh which convulsed the Court.

Curiosities of Vision.

Appleton's Journal contains the following statement: "We presume that most of our readers have a general notion of the structure and working of the human eye. They know that the little sphere, of an inch or so in diameter, which forms the eye-ball, is a camera, essentially like the one used by the photographer to throw the image of external objects upon the surface prepared to receive it, and placed within the apparatus. The mere forming of the picture inside the eye is not, however, seeing. The picture might as well be anywhere else, if there were not some means of making the mind aware of its existence. The optic nerve answers this purpose—a branch of the brain which enters the eye through a small hole in the rear, and spreads out in delicate network over the surface whereupon the picture is formed. The impression made by the rays of light upon this network of nerves is telegraphed to the mind, which then sees the object; or, rather, from seeing its image in the eye. If the optic nerve should be severed, the picture in the eye might be as perfect as before, but we would yet be blind to it. If any portion of the network of nerves just mentioned should be paralyzed, we would cease to see part of the picture formed on the portion of the eye's inner surface. If the entire image of some small objects should fall on the insensible spot, we could no more see it, even though looking straight at it, than if we had no eyes, or kept them shut. It is a curious fact that there is such a 'blind spot' in every human eye; and what is more curious, it is found to be just where the optic nerve enters the eye—the very place which we might suppose would have the keenest sight of all."